

AB 439-6x

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Texas Department of Transportation

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December 16, 2005

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street North West, Room 500
Washington, DC 20423-0001

File: TPP (M)
(512) 486-5127

Re: Docket No. AB-439 (Sub-No.6X): Dallas Area Rapid Transit – Abandonment Exemption

Dear Sirs:

We would like to provide our comments for the record on the above referenced abandonment exemption filed by Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) for their 8.85-mile line between Plano and Allen in Collin County, Texas.

The Texas Department of Transportation has no objection to DART's intent to discontinue freight services on this line, allowing the temporary use of the right of way as a trails corridor, and the preservation of the line for future transit services. The North Central Texas Council of Governments, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth region, has the referenced freight rail section designated for future light rail service in its rail system component of the current Metropolitan Transportation Plan Mobility 2025: Amended April 2005.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Mario G. Medina, Director, Multimodal Section at (512) 486-5127.

Sincerely,

James L. Randall, P.E.
Director, Transportation
Planning and Programming

cc: Michael W. Behrens, P.E., Executive Director, TxDOT
William Hale, P.E., Dallas District Engineer, TxDOT
Mario G. Medina, P.E., Transportation Planning and Programming Division, TxDOT
Edward J. Fishman, Counsel for DART, Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham, LLP
Greg Royster, North Central Texas Council of Governments